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SECURITY INFORMATION

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23 July 1952

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MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Mid-1954 Soviet Capabilities Paper for NSC

1. As recorded in my diary, the NSC Secretariat has approved our proposal that we meet the NSC need for a paper on Soviet capabilities through mid-1954 by a supplement to NIE-64 (I).

2. In arriving at this judgment, the NSC Secretariat looked over the 8 July draft of NIE-64 (I). On basic scope and coverage, they had no comment. They did submit informally the following comments, most of which I think you have met in later drafts, specifically that of 18 July:

(a) The section on "Bloc Military Strength" was thought to drag. I see you have now reduced it from 31 to 6 pages!

(b) The military section was thought to be too long by comparison with the economic section particularly. This appears to have been adjusted in the same way.

(c) It was thought that a good deal of material covered in narrative form could better be put in tables. This also seems to have been done.

(d) It was questioned whether the division into a "factors" section and a summary section on military capabilities was good. I would think that the tightening of the factors section would eliminate this objection substantially.

(e) Some minor points were noted, e.g.:

(1) Apparent inconsistency in the treatment of Stalin's death in paragraphs 2 and 7;

(2) Apparent inconsistency between the strong statement on Soviet technical manpower in paragraph 19 and the reference in paragraph 25 to a shortage of engineers and technicians.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. _____
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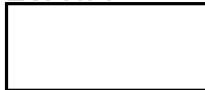
3. In working up the supplement paper, I wonder whether you will want to include more than the barest generalities in the political warfare section. In view of the time factor, I would personally suggest not requesting contributions on this and simply drafting general statements along the lines of the "Estimate of the World Situation."

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